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Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 311194 TOSEC 130084

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM WARREN CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SATURDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. KOREAN PRISONER RELEASE. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE TODAY OF ALL BUT ONE OF THE "MYONGDONG PRISONERS," THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS FIGURES ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT MANIFESTO AT MYONGDONG CATHEDRAL IN SEOUL IN 1976. FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KIM DAE-JUNG, THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE PRISONERS, WAS NOT RELEASED, BUT HAS BEEN MOVED TO SEOUL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. WE HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS WELCOMING RECENT RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS BY INDONESIA, PAKISTAN, AND BANGLADESH.

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2. RIBICOFF ANTI-TERRORISM BILL. FOLLOWING THE SCC MEETING LAST TUESDAY, THE HEAD OF OUR ANTI-TERRORISM WORKING GROUP MET WITH STAFFERS FOR RIBICOFF AND JAVITS TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY OUR COMMENTS ON THE RIBICOFF BILL.

THE STAFFERS INDICATED AN ENCOURAGING WILLINGNESS TO AMEND TROUBLESOME AREAS OF THE BILL; FOR EXAMPLE: (A)

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THEY WOULD CONSIDER GIVING STATUTORY EFFECT TO THE PRESENT ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE SCC; (B) THEY ARE INCLINED TO DROP THE ONE-HOUSE VETO FEATURE; (C) AND THEY DO NOT INSIST ON AUTOMATIC SANCTIONS, BUT WILL PRESS FOR AN INDICATION OF ADMINISTRATION RESOLVE TO ACT AGAINST COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM OR HAVE INADEQUATE AIRPORT SECURITY (THE FAILURE TO INVOKE THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE 1974 ANTI-HIJACKING ACT WAS A FREQUENT THEME).

THE STAFFERS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REDRAFT THE BILL BEFORE THE HEARINGS START JANUARY 23 BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY TRAVEL SCHEDULES OF SENATORS RIBICOFF AND JAVITS IN JANUARY, CONCURRENT STAFF TRAVEL RELATED TO THE BILL, AND THE DESIRE TO HEAR ALL SCHEDULED WITNESSES BEFORE BEGINNING THE MARK-UP. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, RIBICOFF HAS SUGGESTED THE SECRETARY ENDORSE THE THRUST OF THE BILL, STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING OUR METHODS FOR DEALING WITH TERRORISM, AND NOTE THAT THE BILL NEEDS SOME ADJUSTMENTS. I HAVE ASKED THAT CY'S TESTIMONY BE DRAFTED ON A POSITIVE AND AFFIRMATIVE BASIS, WITHOUT ANY LONG RECITAL OF OUR RESERVATIONS BUT WITH AN INDICATION THAT OUR STAFFS ARE WORKING HARMONIOUSLY ON SPECIFIC ADJUSTMENTS.

3. CAMBODIA-VIETNAM BREAK. CAMBODIA HAS "TEMPORARILY"
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BROKEN RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND ACCUSED VIETNAM OF AGGRESSION IN AN INTEMPERATE COMMUNIQUE COMPARING VIETNAMESE ATTACKS INTO EASTERN CAMBODIA WITH HITLER'S THRUST INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS IS THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC REACTION TO INTENSIFIED THOUGH INTERMITTENT FIGHTING WHICH BEGAN LAST SPRING. THE FIGHTING HAS BEEN HEAVY IN RECENT WEEKS AS VIETNAM TROOPS IN DIVISION STRENGTH MOVED 10-15 KM. INTO CAMBODIA.

THE CAUSES FOR THE FIGHTING INCLUDE CAMBODIA'S VIEW THAT THE VIETNAMESE (AND SOVIETS) ARE TRYING TO PRESSURE THEM INTO AN INDOCHINA FEDERATION UNDER VIETNAMESE DOMINATION, AND VIETNAM'S VIEW THAT CAMBODIA, WITH CHINESE SUPPORT, HAS MADE UNREASONABLE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. CENTURIES OF ANIMOSITY FUEL THIS DISPUTE.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE CAMBODIA/VIETNAM FIGHTING MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS WELL BEYOND INDOCHINA. CHINA, WHICH HAD EARLIER IMPLIED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA'S DEFENSIVE EFFORTS, HAS REPORTEDLY DEPLORED THE BORDER CLASHES AND SUGGESTED RESOLUTION BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS. CHINA'S GREATER INTEREST IS IN REGIONAL

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STABILITY. THE CAMBODIANS HAVE CHARGED THAT SOME "FOREIGNERS" COMMAND VIETNAMESE UNITS IN THE ATTACKING FORCES, A PROBABLE REFERENCE TO SOVIETS, BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH THIRD-COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT.

MEANWHILE, REPORTS OF THE GRUESOME SLAUGHTER OF THE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES IN CAMBODIA MOUNT. CHRISTOPHER

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